NUMB. CLXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Comis in Uxorem—— Hor.

Monday, September 24. 1711.

I cannot defer taking Notice of this Letter.

MR. SPECTATOR,

'I Am but too good a Judge of your Paper of 'the 15th Inſtant, which is a Maſter-'piece; I mean that of Jealouſy: But I 'think it unworthy of you to ſpeak of 'the Torture in the Breaſt of a Man, and not to 'mention alſo the Pangs of it in the Heart of a 'Woman. You have very judiciouſly, and with 'the greateſt Penetration imaginable, conſidered it 'as a Woman is the Creature of whom the Diffi-'dence is raiſed; but not a Word of a Man who 'is ſo unmerciful as to move Jealouſy in his Wife, 'and not care whether ſhe is ſo or not. It is 'poſſible you may not believe there are ſuch Ty-'rants in the World; but alas I can tell you of 'Man who is ever out of Humour in his Wife's 'Company, and the pleaſanteſt Man in the World 'every where elſe; the greateſt Sloven at home 'when he appears to none but his Family, and 'moſt exactly well-dreſſed in all other Places. 'Alas, Sir, is it of Courſe, that to deliver one's 'ſelf wholly into a Man's Power without Poſſibili-'ty of Appeal to any other Juriſdiction but to his 'own Reflections, is ſo little an Obligation to a 'Gentleman that he can be offended and fall into 'a Rage, becauſe my Heart ſwells Tears into my 'Eyes when I ſee him in a cloudy Mood? I pre-'tend to no Succour, and hope for no Relief but 'from himſelf; and yet he that has Senſe and Ju-'ſtice in every thing elſe, never reflects, that to 'come home only to ſleep off an Intemperance, 'and ſpend all the Time he is there as if it were 'a Puniſhment, cannot but give the Anguiſh of a 'jealous Mind. He always leaves his Home as 'if he were going to Court, and returns as if he 'were entering a Jail. I could add to this, that 'from his Company and his uſual Diſcourſe, he 'does not ſcruple being thought an abandoned 'Man as to his Morals. Your own Imagination 'will ſay enough to you concerning the Condition 'of me his Wife; and I wiſh you would be ſo 'good as to repreſent to him, for he is not ill-'natured and reads you much, that the Moment 'I hear the Door ſhut after him, I throw my ſelf 'upon my Bed and drown the Child he is ſo fond 'of with my Tears, and often frighten it with 'my Cries; that I curſe my Being; that I run to 'my Glaſs all over-bathed in Sorrows, and help 'the Utterance of my inward Anguiſh by behold-'ing the Guſh of my own Calamities as my Tears 'fall from my Eyes. This looks like an imagined 'Picture to tell you, but indeed this is one of 'my Paſtimes. Hitherto I have only told you 'the general Temper of my Mind, but how ſhall 'I give you an Account of the Diſtraction of it? 'Could you but conceive how cruel I am one 'Moment in my Reſentment, and, at the enſuing 'Minute, when I place him in the Condition my 'Anger would bring him to, how compaſſionate; 'It would give you ſome Notion how miſerable 'I am, and how little I deſerve it. When I re-'monſtrate with the greateſt Gentleneſs that is 'poſſible againſt unhandſome Appearances, and 'that married Perſons are under particular Rules; 'when he is in the beſt Humour to receive this, 'I am anſwered only, That I expoſe my own Re-'putation and Senſe if I appear jealous. I wiſh, 'good Sir, you would take this into ſerious Con-'ſideration, and admoniſh Husbands and Wives 'what Terms they ought to keep towards each 'other. Your Thoughts on this important Subject 'will have the greateſt Reward, that which de-'ſcends on ſuch as feel the Sorrows of the Afflict-'ed. Give me Leave to ſubſcribe my ſelf.

Your unfortunate

humble Servant,

CELINDA.

I had

I had it in my Thoughts, before I received the Letter of this Lady, to consider this dreadful Passion in the Mind of a Woman; and the Smart she seems to feel, does not abate the Inclination I had to recommend to Husbands a more regular Behaviour, than to give the most exquisite of Torments to those who love them, nay whose Torment would be abated if they did not love them.

It is wonderful to observe how little is made of this inexpressible Injury, and how easily Men get into an Habit of being least agreeable where they are most obliged to be so. But this Subject deserves a distinct Speculation, and I shall observe for a Day or two the Behaviour of two or three happy Pair I am acquainted with, before I pretend to make a System of Conjugal Morality. I design in the first Place to go a few Miles out of Town, and there I know where to meet one who practises all the Parts of a fine Gentleman in the Duty of an Husband. When he was a Batchelour much Business made him particularly negligent in his Habit; but now there is no young Lover living so exact in the Care of his Person. One who asked why he was so long washing his Mouth, and so delicate in the Choice and Wearing of his Linnen? was answered, because there is a Woman of Merit obliged to receive me kindly, and I think it incumbent upon me to make her Inclination go along with her Duty.

If a Man would give himself leave to think, he would not be so unreasonable as to expect Debauchery and Innocence could live in Commerce together; or hope that Flesh and Blood is capable of so strict an Allegiance, as that a fine Woman must go on to improve her self till she is as good and impassive as an Angel, only to preserve a Fidelity to a Brute and a Satyr. The Lady who desires me for her Sake to end one of my Papers with the following Letter, I am perswaded thinks such a Perseverance very impracticable.

Husband,

'STAY more at home. I know where you visited at Seven of Clock on *Thursday*-Evening. 'The Collonel whom you charged me to see no 'more, is in Town.

Martha Housewife.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow, being Tuesday the 25th Instant, will be presented a Comedy call'd the Recruiting Officer. The Part of Capt. Plume by Mr. Wilks, Serj. Kite Mr. Estcourt, Capt. Brazen Mr. Cibber, Justice Ballance Mr. Keene, Mr. Worthy Mr. Mills, Bullock Mr. Bullock, Coster Pearmain Mr. Norris, Tho. Apple-tree Mr. Bullock, Jun. Sylvia Mrs. Oldfield, Melinda Mrs. Rogers, Rose Mrs. Bicknell.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's-Head, over against Katherine-street in the Strand.

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This is to give Notice to all Persons concerned in carrying on the Contribution on the Lives of Men, Women, and Children, at the Office in Ironmonger lane, for securing upon Loss happening by the Death of Friends or others, That on the ensuing Lucy-day next ten Directors will be chosen for Management of the said Contribution for the Year ensuing; and all the Contributors are desired to meet for that Purpose at the said Office at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon.

This Day is Publish'd,

The REASONS which induced Her Majesty to constitute the Right Reverend Father in God, John Lord Bishop of Bristol Keeper of the Privy Seal; being the Preamble to his Patent in Latin and English. Printed for E. Curll at the Dial and Bible in Fleet-street; and sold by J. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall. Price 2 d. Where may be had the Preambles to the Patents of the Earl of Oxford, Sir Simon Harcourt, Lord Dartmouth, Lord Bathurst, Lord Ferrers, Earl of Orrery, and the Duke of Hamilton. Price all 6 d. Also Mr. Thornhill's Tryal for the Murder of Sir Charles Deering, Bar. Price 2d.

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